

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 061749
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 INR-10 /027 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:ASTEFAN:EM
APPROVED BY EUR:WLUERS
CU/EE:JALDRIDGE
EUR/SOV:LWILLEMS
EUR/SOV:MGARRISON

-----054578 101552Z /40

R 100336Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 061749

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: CGEN, UR, US SCUL, PFOR

SUBJECT: MEETING OF SOVIET WRITER YURIY RYTKHEU WITH
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS

REFS: A) LENINGRAD 124; B) MOSCOW 17730; C) MOSCOW 6054
OF APRIL 75; D) STATE 21488 OF JANUARY 30, 75

SUMMARY: YURIY RYTKHEU OF THE SOVIET WRITERS' UNION MET
WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS MARCH 7, TO DISCUSS
SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURES FOR TRAVEL BY ESKIMOS ACROSS THE US-
SOVIET BORDER. ALASKA-SIBERIA EXCHANGES IN GENERAL WERE
ALSO BRIEFLY DISCUSSED. END SUMMARY

1. YURIY RYTKHEU HAS BEEN VISITING THE US AT THE INVITA-
TION OF DR. MICHAEL KRAUSS, DIRECTOR OF ALASKA NATIVE
LANGUAGE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA (REFTELS A AND
B). RYTKHEU AND KRAUSS MET WITH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 061749

LUERS ON MARCH 7. RYTKHEU WAS ON HIS WAY BACK TO LENINGRAD
AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS VISITING AMERICAN ESKIMO COMMUNITIES IN
ALASKA. (ALASKAN VISIT SUBJECT SEPTTEL; NEWSPAPER COVERAGE
AND OTHER MATERIAL WILL BE AIRPOUCHED FOR EMBASSY AND CON-
GEN'S INFORMATION.)

2. IN HIS MEETING WITH LUERS,

RYTKHEU STRESSED HE WAS NOT SPEAKING IN ANY OFFICIAL CAPACITY, BUT WISHED TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES OF REINSTATING THE SUMMER VISITS OF AMERICAN ESKIMOS FROM ST. LAWRENCE AND LITTLE DIOMEDE ISLANDS TO THE CHUKOTSK PENINSULA FOR FAMILY REUNIONS AND TRADING (REFTEL D). RYTKHEU FELT THIS WOULD BE DESIRABLE FROM BOTH A CULTURAL AND POLITICAL STANDPOINT. THE EXCHANGES WHICH TOOK PLACE DURING THESE VISITS WERE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE OLD TRADITIONS AND THE CULTURE OF THIS PARTICULAR GROUP OF ESKIMOS. THUS ANYTHING THAT WOULD FACILITATE THESE VISITS WAS IMPORTANT TO HIM AND THE ESKIMO COMMUNITY IN TERMS OF CULTURAL SURVIVAL. ADDITIONALLY, HOWEVER, RENEWAL OF THESE VISITS WOULD BE "POLITICAL SPECTACLE"--A VISIBLE EXAMPLE OF PEACEFUL INTERACTION BETWEEN SOVIET AND AMERICAN CITIZENS. RYTKHEU SAID THESE VISITS WOULD BE A "NEW BRIDGE OF PEACE".

3. LUERS AGREED THAT THE REINSTATEMENT OF SUCH CONTACT BETWEEN THESE CLOSELY RELATED AMERICAN AND SOVIET ESKIMOS, THROUGH SIMPLIFIED BORDER-CROSSING PROCEDURES AS THEY HAD EXISTED PRIOR TO MAY 1948, WOULD BE OF GREAT BENEFIT TO EVERYONE CONCERNED. THE USG HAD TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO RENEW THE 1938 AGREEMENT SEVERAL TIMES. UNFORTUNATELY, THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT AS LATE AS APRIL OF 1975 (REFTEL C) HAD INDICATED NO INTEREST IN THIS IDEA.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 061749

4. RYTKHEU STATED INTENTION TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES IN MOSCOW. IN RESPONSE TO LUERS' QUESTION, HE SAID HE WOULD TALK WITH THE MFA "AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS". RYTKHEU ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR TOON CONCERNING THIS MATTER.

5. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING, IT WAS AGREED THAT RYTKHEU WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH DR. KRAUSS AND ALSO WITH THE EMBASSY AND CONGEN. HE INDICATED TO DEPTOFF AFTER MEETING THAT HE FELT IT WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE FOR THE EMBASSY AND/OR CONGEN TO CONTACT HIM, THROUGH PROPER CHANNELS (HE MENTIONED FEDORENKO OF THE WRITERS' UNION SPECIFICALLY) THAN FOR HIM TO CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT. HE ALSO SAID IT WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL TO MOVE TOO QUICKLY ON THIS MATTER, AND SUGGESTED THE EMBASSY/CONGEN WAIT ABOUT 2 MONTHS BEFORE TRYING TO SET UP A MEETING, OR TAKING OTHER ACTION.

6. COMMENT. JUDGING FROM RYTKHEU'S COMMENTS, THIS RENEWAL OF INTEREST IN A PROPOSAL THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT

HAS REPEATEDLY REJECTED IS QUITE UNOFFICIAL IN CHARACTER. RYTKHEU APPEARS TO BE WILLING TO USE HIS STATUS AS A RECOGNIZED SOVIET AUTHOR OF NON-RUSSIAN NATIONALITY TO TRY TO MAKE THINGS EASIER FOR HIS PEOPLE, BUT HE IS CLEARLY CONSCIOUS OF THE LIMITS ON HIS ACTIONS. HIS EFFORT TO GET THE RELEVANT MINISTRIES TO ACT IN THIS MATTER MAY NOT BE SUCCESSFUL, ALTHOUGH HE TOLD DEPTOFF THAT IT WAS HIS BELIEF THAT ONCE THE PRINCIPLE WAS ACCEPTED, THE MECHANICS WOULD COME EASILY. DEPT WOULD WELCOME AN OPPORTUNITY TO RESURRECT BERING STRAIT BORDER CROSSING REGIME, BUT AT THIS POINT IT SEEMS BEST TO GIVE RYTKHEU TIME TO EXPLORE SITUATION AFTER HIS RETURN. WE ARE REVIEWING DETAILS AND CLEARANCES OF OUR EARLIER PACKAGE AND WILL ADVISE. EMBASSY/CONGEN COMMENTS WOULD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 061749

BE WELCOME.
VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, WRITERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE061749
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ASTEFAN:EM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780108-0437
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780381/aaaacqvz.tel
Line Count: 138
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9f97acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LENINGRAD 124, 78 MOSCOW 17730, 78 MOSCOW 6054
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3370502
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING OF SOVIET WRITER YURIY RYTKHEU WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS
TAGS: CGEN, SCUL, PFOR, UR, US, (RYTKHEU, YURIY)
To: MOSCOW LENINGRAD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9f97acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014